

Warren County Schools

Innovative Programs and Practices

**The North Carolina General Assembly
The House Study Committee on Education Innovation**

March 19, 2014

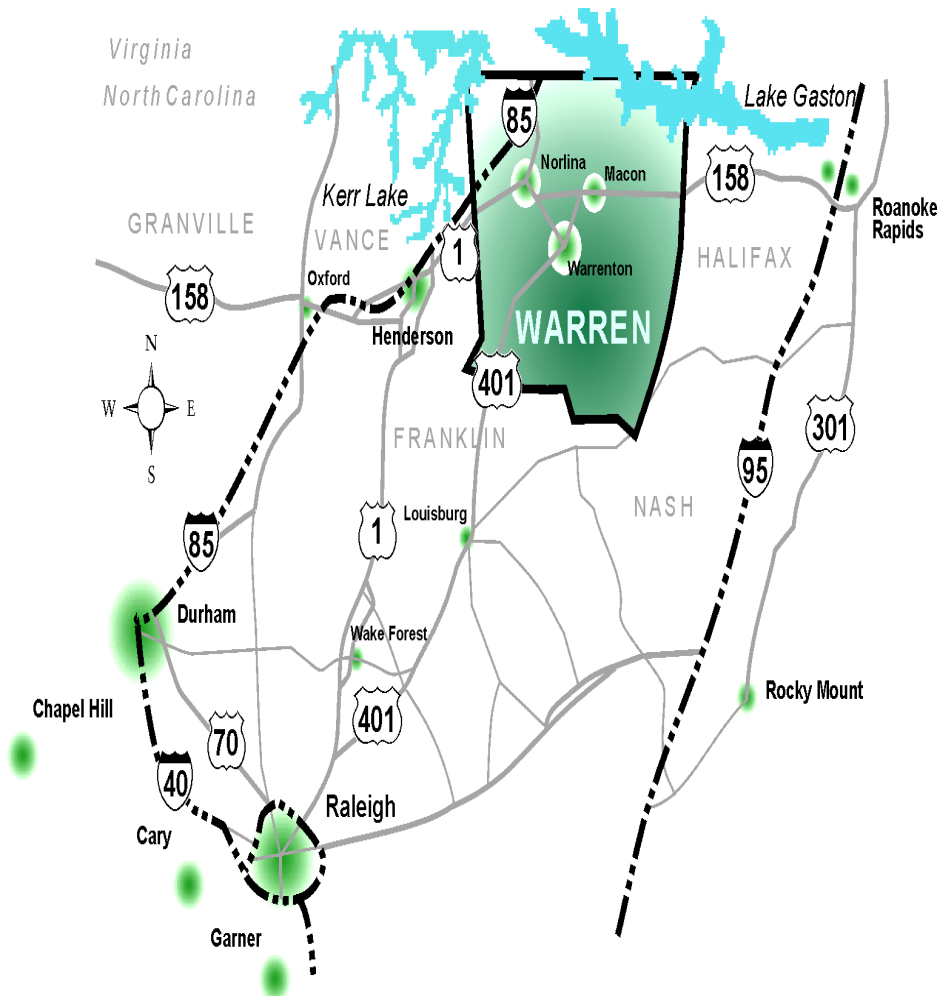
Innovative Programs/Practices

- ♦ School Choice
- ♦ High School Reform Project
 - ♦ High School Options
 - ♦ High School Registration Process
- ♦ 8+ Program (MS transition program)
- ♦ Northside Elementary Transformation
- ♦ Technology – Free & Open Source

About Warren County ...

- ♦ Rural, population 20,576
- ♦ Persons below poverty level 24.4%
- ♦ Free/reduce lunch 86.5%
- ♦ Median household Income \$34,803
- ♦ School Population 2,500 students
- ♦ Eight Schools (4 elementary, 1 middle, 3 HS)

Location



Northeast Piedmont of North
Carolina

One hour above Raleigh

On the Virginia line
At Interstate 85

Enrollment

2,378 Students

1,592 African-American

402 Caucasian

158 Native American

168 Hispanic

48 Multi-Racial

10 Asian

Eight Schools

4 Elementary

3 High Schools

1 Middle School

1 Alternative School Program



A New Paradigm

Choice !

**Students and Parents are making a
conscious decision about their secondary
education!**

WCS HS Choice Options

- ♦ Three high school sites
- ♦ Focused career interest
- ♦ All programs college prep
- ♦ Small school environment
- ♦ More individualized attention

WCS HS Choice Options (cont)

- ♦ Student & Parent School Choice
- ♦ Earlier experience with college courses
- ♦ Possible semester to two years of college
- ♦ Higher minority enrollment in college
- ♦ Overall improvement in the quality of Warren County high schools

Warren County Schools High School Reform Project

WCHS Whole School Reform

- ♦ Department of Public Instruction required a research model to be selected by May 30, 2008
- ♦ Project selected from State adoption list
- ♦ Local design project
- ♦ Change in instruction
- ♦ New interventions
- ♦ Must reform entire school



Warren County High Schools Transition Plan

2006-07

- ♦ Warren County HS

2007-08

- ♦ Warren County HS
- ♦ Warren New Tech

2008-09

- ♦ Warren County HS
- ♦ Warren New Tech
- ♦ Warren Early College

Warren County High Schools 2014-15

Warren County HS

- ♦ College 18 Academy
- ♦ Career Academy (3)

Construction Technology

Business & Finance

Health & Medical

Warren New Tech HS

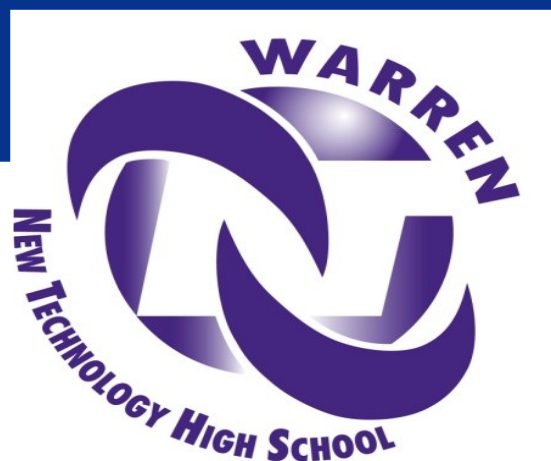
Warren Early College HS



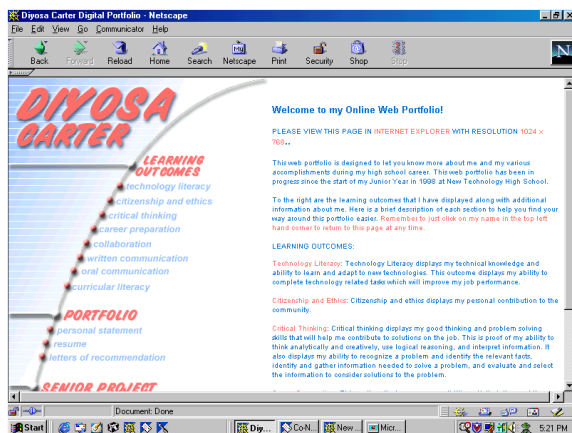
Warren New Tech HS

- ♦ Small School Environment
- ♦ Curriculum - Project Based Learning
- ♦ Focused course of study
- ♦ Computers are a tool and not the focus for the school
- ♦ Separate school site
- ♦ Building a school culture

Transform the Secondary School Student Experience!



Personalization
Projects
Exhibitions
Digital Portfolios
Internships
Technology



Warren New Tech HS

WNTHS- 3 year graduation Cohort
95% average recognized by DPI

- ♦ 2013-95%
- ♦ 2012-94%
- ♦ 2011-96%



Warren New Tech Graduating Seniors

- ♦ Higher Education

- ♦ All were accepted to a 2 yr./4 yr. college or university in 2011, 2012 & 2013

- ♦ Military Service

- ♦ One in the Class of 2011 & 2012
- ♦ Two in the class of 2013

Warren Early College HS

- ♦ Highest Performing Warren County Schools
- ♦ Highest Attendance Rate
- ♦ Annual lottery
- ♦ Open to all students
- ♦ Top 10 NC public schools for African-American student performance (Education Advocacy - CarolinaCAN)

WECHS

Earning the Green



Warren County High Schools Registration Process

HS Registration Process

- ♦ Schools must recruit students
- ♦ Brochure - each high school
- ♦ Brochure – highlighting the three high schools
- ♦ Meeting with eight graders
- ♦ Meeting with parents
- ♦ All students receive application package
- ♦ Students rank their HS choices

Considerations

- ♦ All students choose a school in 8th grade
- ♦ Students may not transfer to WNTHS and WECHS (exception if they are coming from a similar school in another district)
- ♦ All students will be eligible to participate in athletics & extra curricular activities
- ♦ School selection is a parent & student decision

WCHS 8+ Program



Purpose of 8+Program

- ♦ To provide an educational opportunity for middle school students who are two or more years behind original cohort
- ♦ To accelerate student learning
- ♦ To assist students with the goal of graduation
- ♦ To create a supportive instructional environment
- ♦ To integrate character and social skill education

Program Design

- ♦ Partnership with Warren County Schools & Edison Learning
- ♦ Edison Learning provides core academics, ELA and Mathematics
- ♦ Warren County High School provides electives
- ♦ Blended model incorporating online courses and direct instruction
- ♦ Focus instruction on ELA and Mathematics
- ♦ Focus on core content with few electives
- ♦ Strong academic support and guidance

Parent/Student Interviews

- ♦ Retentions
- ♦ Current Report Cards
- ♦ Historical End of Grade Assessment Data Review
- ♦ Attendance Review
- ♦ Program/Personal Expectations
- ♦ Student and Parent perceptions of the program
- ♦ Question and Answer
- ♦ Contract Review
- ♦ Student Interest
- ♦ Discipline Consequences
- ♦ Invitation to enroll

Parent, Student, School Contract

- ♦ Providing a supportive environment is a joint effort of the parents, students, and school working together
- ♦ The contract signed by parents, students, teachers, and staff reflects responsibilities
- ♦ The document was reviewed and signed during the interviews
- ♦ Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendent attend each parent/student conference

Student Success

- ♦ First 2011-12 cohort thirty 7th & 8th graders
- ♦ 13 transition to regular HS program
- ♦ 6 currently in program
- ♦ 4 in alternative learning program
- ♦ 3 transfer out-of-district
- ♦ 4 dropouts

2013-14 Cohort

- ♦ Thirteen 7th graders
- ♦ Five 8th graders
- ♦ Five females, Thirteen males



8+ Student Quotes

“I appreciate all that the 8+Program has done for me and my peers. I've accomplished so much since I've been here. I know that I AM GOING TO GRADUATE!! I just want to thank you for inviting me here.”

JW, 8th Grader

“...this program has helped me a lot with my school work. This is a better environment for me only because the classes here are small and I communicate easy with my teachers.... I'm very thankful for getting this kind of opportunity to be in the “8+Program.” I have grown and have a new attitude towards things and my peers...”

LP, 8th Grader

Northside Elementary

School Transformation

STT Purpose

(STT - School Transformation Team)

- ♦ Study programs and practices that work
- ♦ Learn together
- ♦ Explore promising programs and organizational models
- ♦ Look for evidence of effectiveness
- ♦ Represent Northside school family
- ♦ Discuss ideas

STT Purpose (cont.)

- ♦ Share information with faculty, parents and the community
- ♦ Recommend new programs
- ♦ Work toward consensus
- ♦ Go on site visits
- ♦ Team's report & recommendations to Board of Education
- ♦ Joint effort to improve Northside

2011-12 Site Visits

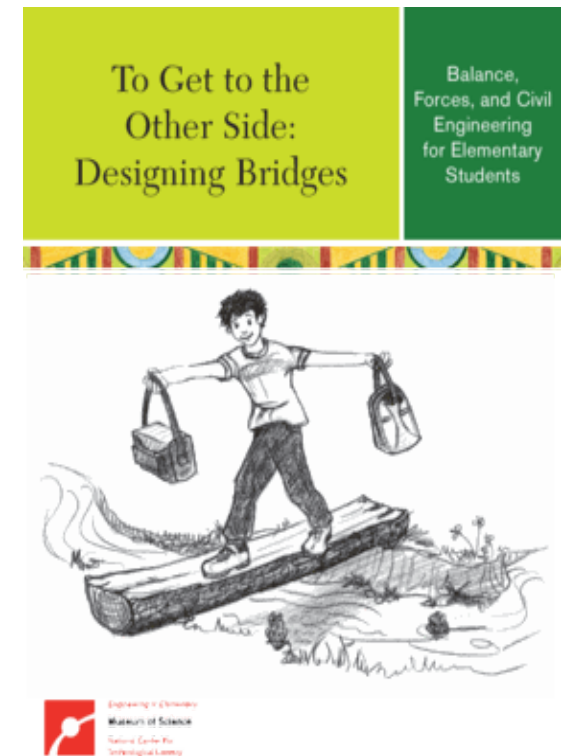
- ♦ SPLASH (Johnston County Schools)
- ♦ Year-round Calendar (Franklin County Schools & Lee County Schools)



2013-14 Site Visits



- A+ School (Durham County Schools)
- Engineering is Elementary (Granville County Schools)
- GR Whitfield K-8 (Pitt County Schools)
- Contentnea-Savannah K-8 (Lenoir County)



K-8 Schools

Current & Proposed Changes

Implemented

- ♦ Year-round Calendar
- ♦ SPLASH Spanish Language Immersion

Proposed 2014-15

- ♦ Schoolwide Instructional Reform Model
 - ♦ A+ - Arts & STEM
 - ♦ Engineering is Elementary (STEM)
- ♦ PK-5 to PK-8 Reorganization



Technology Variety

Extending the life of existing equipment

- ♦ Open Source/Free Software
- ♦ Web/mail Linux Server
- ♦ Linux on Server (Ubuntu, etc)
- ♦ Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP)
- ♦ Citrix virtualization
- ♦ Thin Clients
- ♦ Libre Office on laptops/desktops
- ♦ Windows OS & Linux

Summary

WCS Partners

... a special thank you!

- ♦ NC New Schools
- ♦ Visiting International Faculty (VIF)
- ♦ Teach for America (TFA)
- ♦ Vance-Granville Community College
- ♦ NC General Assembly
- ♦ NC State Board of Education
- ♦ Department of Public Instruction
- ♦ Warren County Board of County Commissioners
- ♦ Warren County Chamber of Commerce
- ♦ Warren County Economic Development

Current Obstacles

- ♦ Teacher Recruitment & Retention
- ♦ School Calendar – student difficulty taking college courses
- ♦ State Funding – Local Ed. Agency Adjustment
- ♦ Revenue to Support Reform & Innovation
- ♦ Career & College Promise – restriction on 10th graders taking college courses

Summary Comments

- ♦ WCS committed to School Choice within the school district
- ♦ Options for Parents and Students
- ♦ Emphasis on Process
- ♦ Involving Parents, Students and the community in the change process
- ♦ Consistent Messaging
- ♦ Focus on improving opportunities for students for career & college preparation

Thank You for Your Attention!

**Presentation to the North Carolina General Assembly
House Study Committee on Education Innovation**

**March 19, 2014
Northeast Regional School, Plymouth, NC**

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